

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-222

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: House Rock Wildlife Area Holding Pasture

Region and Game Management Unit: Region II; GMU 12A-East

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES ☐ **NO** ☒

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☒

If Yes, was it funded? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Holding pasture fence upgrade

Brief Project Summary:

Resurrect an old holding pasture in the NE corner of House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA). The north and most of the south fence are still intact. The west fence and about 200 yards of the south fence need to be rebuilt, as they were removed in the past. A needed archeological survey and NEPA compliance will likely be conducted by the Kaibab National Forest.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bison

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: May 2015

Project End Date: August 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒ **N/A** ☐

Projected Completion Date: Spring 2015

State Historic Preservation Office - Arch Clearance:

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **N/A** ☐

Projected Completion Date: Spring 2015

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist:

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **N/A** ☐

Some compliance in Programmatic EA titled "AGFD Bison Management Activities; Habitat Branch Log #: M10-10062330 for fence maintenance. Also a new EAC will be submitted.

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 93,060

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 9,000

Total Project Costs:

\$ 99,060

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Carl Lutch

Address:

3500 S. Lake Mary Rd

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:

clutch@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-214-1242

Date: September 1, 2014

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:

Mike Hannamann-Kaibab National Forest

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

HRWA is a historical home to one of two state bison herds. Most interior pasture fences at HRWA have been removed. There used to be a holding pasture in the very NE portion of the wildlife area. The south fence is still intact and the north fence is the boundary fence with BLM and it is intact. The eastside of the pasture is South Canyon, a major tributary of the Grand Canyon with bluffs. Unfortunately, the west fence was removed. Confining bison to a particular area has been difficult in the past. Bison were capture on Grand Canyon National Park in July 2014 and 19 were transported back to HRWA. These animals are being held in a 7 acre pasture and corral. An old larger holding pasture was attached to these old corrals in the past and was approximately 2,200 acres in size. Having the ability to hold translocated bison at HRWA to reestablish a home range there would be greatly enhanced by having a larger holding pasture. Any relocated bison could be held a much longer period of time (1-2 years) in this larger holding pasture, greatly increasing bison site fidelity to HRWA over what we can now accomplish with only a seven acre pasture at HQ. Additionally, a new larger holding pasture will significantly increase future bison management options at HRWA if and/or when bison are reestablished at HRWA. Future population reducing hunts could take place in this pasture away from main bison social groups, further enhancing site fidelity on HRWA.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve/upgrade 4 miles of current fence on the north and south side of the old holding pasture. Rebuild 3.1 miles of the west side of the larger holding pasture to bison fence standards tested and found to be viable at containing bison to Raymond Wildlife Area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Three sections of fence need maintenance, upgrading and building totaling approximately 10 miles. We are proposing to rebuild the fence with 5 strands of wire at 4 ft. total height and 18-20 in. off the ground. This should be high enough to deter bison from attempting to jump over the fence and low enough for deer to cross. New 2”X2”X5 ft. fence stays will be installed to add strength and deter bison. New t-posts will be installed where current wood posts are rotten. This fence will be higher than “standard” fence specifications for wildlife, but a standard fence is not tall enough nor strong enough to deter bison. To date this bison fence standard at Raymond Wildlife Area is deterring the Raymond bison herd from leaving and they have not crossed this new bison fence design.

This project can be implemented over the next couple years. An evaluation of the current 19 bison response to being released from the corrals/small holding pasture at HRWA will inform the decision if all the 7.1 miles need to be build or if the total miles of fence can be scaled back and reduce total costs. We at least want the option and funding in place if it is deemed necessary to build the whole 7.1 miles.

PROJECT LOCATION:

House Rock Wildlife Area, eastside of Kaibab National Forest

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

Kaibab National Forest owns the land containing the old larger pasture fence

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Great Basin grassland habitat

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Kaibab National Forest- complete NEPA and archeological surveys

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Total project consists of three areas of fence. For 2014, we are looking to complete only Areas I and III. An evaluation will be made if Area II is necessary and a determination will be made at a later date to proceed with it if necessary:

Area I	3.1 miles of new fence from the corrals northward to the east-west boundary fence.
Area II	2.3 miles of heavy fence maintenance on the east-west boundary fence.
Area III	1.7 miles total fence extending westward from the rim of South Canyon to the existing corrals: 1.38 miles of heavy fence maintenance and 0.32 miles of new fence construction

Area I Contractor Quote:

Material	\$14,520.00
Labor	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	\$39,520.00
Tax	<u>\$ 1,670.00</u>
Total	\$41,190.00

Area II Contractor Quote:

Material	\$ 7,250.00
Labor	<u>\$18,750.00</u>
	\$26,000.00
Tax	<u>\$ 1,100.00</u>
Total	\$27,100.00

Area III Contractor Quote:

Material	\$ 7,510.00
Labor	<u>\$16,250.00</u>
	\$23,760.00
Tax	<u>\$ 1,010.00</u>
Total	\$24,770.00

GRANT TOTAL \$93,060

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

AGFD will provide one 20' gate, 10 rolls of barbed wire and deliver approximately 7,600 wooden stays at a cost of approximately- \$4,000

Kaibab National Forest- NEPA and arch surveys- \$5,000

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

No specific monitoring plan, but the fence would be monitored daily to weekly depending on if bison are within the pasture. When damage is detected, repairs are made ASAP.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

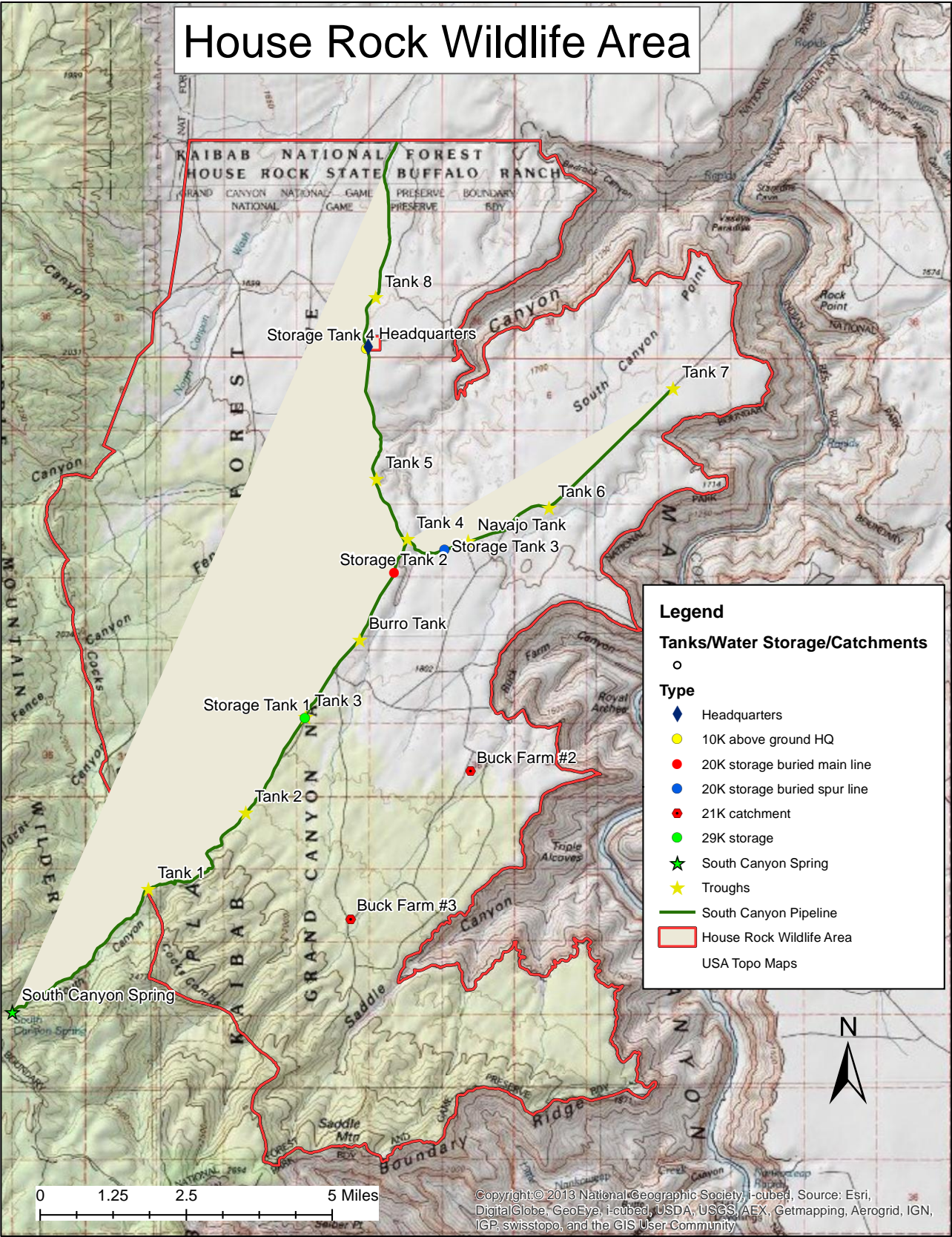
HRWA Manager- Carrie King

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Carrie King



Map of North Kaibab showing location of House Rock Wildlife Area



General map of House Rock Wildlife Area

